

SOUTH AIRPORT EXIT OVERPASS

George Washington Memorial Parkway, at National Airport

Arlington Vicinity

Arlington County

Virginia

HAER No. VA-84

HAER  
VA  
7-ARL.V,  
17-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service

Department of the Interior

P.O. Box 37127

Washington, D.c. 20013-7127

## HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

### SOUTH AIRPORT EXIT OVERPASS

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

**Location:** George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) milepost 0.17, 1.8 miles from Interstate 395; carries south exit from National Airport over GWMP, in Arlington County, Virginia.

**FHWA Structure No.:** 3300-027P.

**Date of Construction:** 1965.

**Structure type:** Reinforced concrete rigid frame arch bridge.

**Designer:** Bureau of Public Roads with approval from the National Park Service.

**Present Use:** Noncommercial traffic exiting the airport onto the GWMP.

**Present Owner:** National Capital Region, National Park Service.

**Significance:** One of several grade separation structures providing access to National Airport from the GWMP.

**Project Information:** Documentation of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Clara Barton Parkway was undertaken as a multi-year project by the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), a combined division of the National Park Service, Robert Kapsch, Chief. The project was sponsored by the Park Roads Program of the National Park Service, John Gingles, Deputy Chief, Engineering and Safety Services Division. The Project Supervisor was Sara Amy Leach, HABS Historian. Bridge reports were prepared by Elizabeth M. Nolin (1988); Michael P. Kucher (University of Delaware, 1993); and Jennifer P. Wentzien (University of Washington, 1994).

HABS Report No. VA-69 prepared by Timothy Davis (University of Texas) provides an overview history of the entire parkway project. Jack E. Boucher and Jet Lowe produced the large-format photographs. The Washington-based summer 1994 documentation team was headed by landscape architect Tim Mackey (Harvard University, Graduate School of Design).

## II. HISTORY

The George Washington Memorial Parkway is comprised of three interconnected segments flanking the Potomac River in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. The Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (MVMH) completed in 1932 was the first segment. The South Airport Exit Overpass is located along the MVMH segment of the GWMP and is part of the expansion of National Airport. The bridge was constructed on the same contract as the Route 1- National Airport Overpass (HAER No. VA-85).

The architectural design of the bridge is a modified version of earlier stone-faced parkway bridges. The most notable differences between this design and earlier MVMH bridges are the absence of stone facing on the arched span and the use of a metal railing rather than a stone parapet. William D. Haussmann is listed as the architectural designer for the National Park Service.

### Description

The South Airport Exit Bridge is a two span rigid concrete frame bridge. The legs of the frame are skewed at different angles to the span due to the horizontal curvature of the span. Skews vary between 46 and 64 degrees. The total length of the bridge is 179'. The longer of the two spans is 100' in length. The deck 34.9' wide, with a 4.2' cantilever sidewalk on each side. Footings rest on precast, prestressed concrete piles and are continuous with frame. 2' x 2' ties span between the footings to prevent the inward rotation of the piers. Steel railings are 2' 9" high. Reinforced concrete wing walls rest on counterfort type (stepped) footings over precast, prestressed concrete piles. Wing walls are stone faced with a class "A" local masonry. Corner quoins are rock-faced granite.

## III. SOURCES

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads. Plans for Proposed Project 1A7. Microfiche reductions of original construction drawings on file at National Capital Region Park Headquarters, National Park Service, Washington D.C.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Final Construction Report, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Project 1A7," 1965. Unable to locate this report at the remote storage facility of the Eastern Federal Lands Division, Federal Highway Administration, Sterling, VA.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), No. VA-69, "George Washington Memorial Parkway," 1994. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service. "Structure Inventory and Appraisal Sheet-- Structure No. 3300-022P." 4/21/93.